¶ By the King.

A Proclamation concerning the Poſt-maſter of England for Forreigne parts.

WHereas His MAIESTIES father King IAMES of happy memory, for vrgent cauſes did conſtitute an Office, called the Office of Poſtmaſter of England for Forreigne parts beeing out of His Dominions, to be exerciſed by ſome meet perſons to be appointed by the Kings Maieſty, that ſhould haue the ſole taking vp, ſending, and conueying, of all Packets, and Letters, concerning His ſeruice, And of all other Packets and Letters, the carriage and conueying whereof had beene belonging to any Poſtmaſter into Forreigne parts, and the ſole doing and executing of all things pertayning to a Poſtmaſter, which ſhould concerne any ſeruice or buſineſſe to bee diſpatched into thoſe Forreigne parts, with power to take moderate Salaries, and granted that Office to Matthew de Queſter and Matthew de Queſter his ſonne for their liues. And by occaſion that others intromitted in the execution of the ſaid place, taking vpon them to take vp Letters and to ſend them into Forreigne parts, It Was reſolued by His late Maieſties Councel, that they ought not therein to intermeddle, and thereupon His Maieſtie did publikely prohibite all others that they ſhould not directly, or indirectly, exerciſe, or intrude themſelues to haue any imployment in or about any thing which ought to be done by the ſaid Officers, and commanded thoſe of His Honourable Councell and others to bee ayding to the ſaid Poſtmaſters and their Deputies, and to hinder the proceedings of all intruders and diſauowed perſons, Which ſhould preſume to attempt, or goe about, directly, or indirectly, to doe, or execute any thing contrary to His Maieſties pleaſure therein declared. Sithence Which, the ſaid Matthew the ſonne died, and the ſaid Matthew de Queſter the father, His Maieſties Poſtmaſter for Forreigne parts beeing aged and infirme, did make and ſubſtitute William Frizell, and Thomas Witherings, his Deputies, to doe all things appertaining to his Office.

And His Maieſtie taking notice of the abilities and truſtines of the ſaid Deputies in the execution of the ſaid Office, hath beene well pleaſed to accept and approue of that Subſtitution, And the ſaid William Frizell, and Thomas Witherings, haue faithfully and diligently attended the execution of the ſaid Office, aſwell in taking vp, receiuing, carefull and iuſt deliuery, and diſperſing of Letters ſent from the parts beyond the Seas, as in tranſmitting them into thoſe parts. And diuers principall Merchants of the Engliſh Nation vnder their hands haue made Certificate to his Maieſtie, that they conceiue them fit and able for that Place, praying His Maieſtie to continue them, not ſuffering Strangers to make their choyce, Which would bee to their great preiudice. Our ſaid Soueraigne Lord the King affecting the Welfare of His People, and taking into His Princely conſideration how much it imports His State and this Realme; that the ſecrets thereof bee not diſcloſed to forreigne nations Which cannot be preuented, if a promiſcuous vſe of tranſmitting or taking vp of Forreigne Letters and Packets ſhould bee ſuffered, Which will bee alſo no ſmall preiudice to His ſaid Merchants in their Tradings. His Maieſtie therefore doeth ſtraightly charge and command all His people, as well Aliens as Denizens, that none of them, (other then the ſaid William Frizell and Thomas Witherings) preſume to take vp or tranſmit ſuch Forreigne Packets or Letters, or exerciſe that to the Office of Poſtmaſter for Forreigne parts out of His Maieſties Dominions in any ſort pertaineth. And that none of them, in receiuing, taking or tranſmitting Letters or Packets from or vnto Forreigne parts out of His Maieſties Dominions ſhal imploy any others that ſhall take vpon them or vſe the receiuing, taking vp, or tranſmitting ſuch Letters, or that ſhall exerciſe that which to the Office of ſuch Poſtmaſter pertaineth at their vttermoſt perils.

Giuen at the Court at Oatlands, the ninteenth day of Iuly, in the eight yeere of the raigne of Our Soueraigne Lord Charles, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland Defender of the Faith, &c.

God ſaue the King.

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